

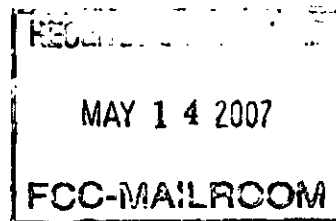


Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society

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May 4, 2007
File Number: 07-011

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

02-60

RE: Support for FCC Rural Telemedicine Infrastructure Grant

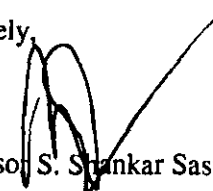
Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), I am writing to express my support for the Proposal from the California Telehealth Network in Response to the Rural Health Care Pilot Order (FCC 06-144). The planned activities resonate well with future plans at CITRIS, especially in our recent research and engineering initiatives in healthcare and telehealth, and I fully endorse your proposal. We further encourage leveraging the rural network for public services needs such as disaster preparedness, emergency response, academic research, public health, and health distance education.

Recent influential reports from the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Engineering and private foundations have noted the promise of telemedicine and the remote provision of care, and we fully and enthusiastically support work to improve the State of California's infrastructure for Telemedicine. As a four-campus (UCs Davis, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, and Merced), California State-funded Science and Innovation center, and the only one dedicated to information technology broadly defined, the history of CITRIS is punctuated by partnerships that benefit the State of California and its people.

As you know, CITRIS applies fundamental research in information technology, broadly defined, to many societal-scale problems, including energy, health care, services, disaster response, environmental monitoring, among other topics. Our work on healthcare and research into its future, the technologies of remote care, and technologies for rural and emerging regions will help to extend, sustain, and innovate the capabilities of the rural telehealth network, and we look forward to supporting your efforts and collaborating where appropriate. We also look forward to helping you engage those of our industrial partners interested in the remote provision of care, both by making them aware of this project, and by bringing them to help sustain and innovate in remote provision of care.

Sincerely,


Professor S. Shankar Sastry
Director,
Center for Information Technology Research
in the Interest of Society
284 Hearst Memorial Mining Building # 1764
Berkeley, CA 94720-1764

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